



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS LABORATORY ACCREDITATION BOARD

June 27, 2011

Sergeant David Hernandez
El Paso Police Department
Crime Laboratory
911 N. Raynor Street
El Paso, Texas 79903

Dear Sgt. Hernandez:

During a June 24, 2011 meeting of the ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors, the findings issued during the recent assessment of the El Paso Police Department Crime Laboratory were considered. Several of the findings of the assessment team raised serious concerns about the preparedness of personnel in your laboratory to conduct the full gamut of forensic controlled substances analyses.

As a result of the Board's concern resulting from the findings of the assessment team, the El Paso Police Department Crime Laboratory's accreditation was placed on probation until September 2, 2011, with the condition that the laboratory suspend all casework involving instrumental analysis until such time that the laboratory demonstrates, to ASCLD/LAB, that all personnel performing drug chemistry are competent in extraction theory, instrumental analysis, and data interpretation and that they are competent in the methods used by the laboratory.

As a second condition, the laboratory must have an external review of the past six (6) months of casework involving instrumental analysis by competent personnel from an ASCLD/LAB accredited laboratory.

As a third condition, within 14 calendar days of this notification, the lab must provide the ASCLD/LAB Executive Director with a plan of action to address the concerns related to the work in the laboratory.

Failure to meet any of the stated conditions may result in suspension or revocation of accreditation. Please be assured that the Board wishes to assist the El Paso Police Department Crime Laboratory in maintaining a quality forensic program and to continue the accreditation of your laboratory.

If you wish to appeal the decision of the Board, you must do so in writing to me and clearly state the basis for the appeal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ralph M. Keaton

Ralph M. Keaton
Executive Director

cc: ASCLD/LAB Board of Directors
ASCLD/LAB Office
Harry Fox, ASCLD/LAB Lead Assessor